

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-19 and 38-42 are pending, with claims 1, 3-7, 10, 12-16, 19 and 38 amended, and claims 39-42 added by the present amendment. Claims 1 and 38-42 are independent.

In the Official Action, claims 1, 3-7, and 15-19 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis (U.S. Patent No. 5,822,123) in view of Yoshida (U.S. Patent No. 5,936,611), Shalit (U.S. Patent No. 5,714,971) and Rochford (U.S. Patent No. 6,691,282); and claims 8-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis, Yoshida, Shalit and Rochford in view of Nsonwu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,978,473).

Claims 1, 3-7, 10, 12-16, 19 and 38 are amended, and claims 39-42 are added, to more clearly describe and distinctly claim Applicant's invention. Support for this amendment is found in Applicant's originally filed specification.¹ No new matter is added.

Briefly recapitulating, amended claim 1 is directed to

A method for implementing a help function in a digital television receiver with a plurality of buttons, including a help button and cursor buttons, provided on the digital television receiver or on a remote controller, the method comprising the steps of:

displaying main help items including titles of external elements in the digital television receiver on a first area of a screen when a user pushes the help button;

indicating any one of the titles of the external elements with a cursor as the user manipulates the cursor buttons, and *displaying a figure of the external element indicated by the cursor on a second area of the screen*; and

displaying on a third area of the screen a help description with respect to

¹ Specification, paragraph [0013] and Figs. 5-8.

one of plural parts of the figure indicated by the cursor on the second area of the screen without a separate key signal,

wherein the first, second and third areas are simultaneously displayed on the screen, and

wherein the help description of the third area is removed from the screen when the cursor indicates another part of the figure.

Davis describes an electronic program schedule system. In operation modes of flip, browse, or menu, the system of Davis may provide a user with context sensitive pop-up hints. These hints appear either when the user explicitly asks for help or when the system detects that the user needs assistance through the user's inaction or keystroke error.² For example, if the user enters the listing by time menu screen 400 displayed in Figure 43a, which shows program listings for a single time period, and either "stalls" (remaining inactive for more than a predetermined amount of time), requests for help (by pressing the "help" key 50), or presses an improper key, the system displays a hint 402 like that shown in Figure 43a, instructing the user how to highlight another program.³ In one embodiment, each hint is displayed at one time. In an alternative embodiment, subsequent hints may be added to the hint or hints already displayed on the screen so the user is made aware of all of the different available options at the same time.⁴

Davis further describes that if the user presses a valid key other than the "HELP" key 50 while displaying a hint, the system will remove the hint from the screen, and when the help system is next activated, it will begin with the first hint in the list. In an alternate embodiment, if the user presses a command key while a hint is being displayed, the hint will be removed, but after a predetermined period of inactivity, the system will begin displaying hints, starting with

² Davis, column 34, lines 57-64.

³ Davis, column 34, lines 7-15.

⁴ Davis, column 34, lines 32-37.

the hint immediately following the hint being displayed at the time the user presses the command key. This will allow the user to see the hints not already seen without requiring the user to wait while the system displays hints that have already been seen.⁵

However, as acknowledged by the Official Action, Davis does not disclose or suggest a number of Applicant's claimed features, including the feature of "displaying main help items including titles of external elements in the digital television receiver on a first area of a screen when a user pushes the help button." To cure this deficiency, the Official Action applies Yoshida.

Yoshida describes an on-screen displaying apparatus that displays a remote control hand unit. Applied FIG. 4 of Yoshida is an example of a main screen for setting various functions of an image display apparatus with remote control functions. If a menu key 31 on the remote control hand unit is pressed, a mode is changed over to a help mode. Various names of help functions are then displayed. In FIG. 4 of Yoshida, PICTURE is selected (highlighted with hatches). Under this condition, if key 33 is pressed, AUDIO on the right is selected. If key 33 is continuously pressed, the highlighted portion moves to the right successively. Conversely, if key 35 is continuously pressed, the highlighted portion moves to the left successively, and the highlighted item (the hatched portion in this figure) of items 51 is selected (steps S4, S5 and S14). In this case, the sub-items 52 of the selected item, that is, the adjustment (setting) sub-items regarding the image, for example, contrast, brightness, sharpness, color, tint, etc. are displayed. Similar to the selection procedure of the setting items (items 51), by pressing key 36 and key 34, the user can move the highlighted portion (the hatched portion in the figure) to select

⁵ Davis, column 35, lines 7-32.

adjustment (setting) sub-item.⁶ The lower right of FIG. 4 of Yoshida also shows screen navigation prompts.

However, as acknowledged by the Official Action, Yoshida fails to disclose or suggest Applicant's claimed feature of "displaying on a third area of the screen a help description with respect to one of plural parts of the figure indicated by the cursor on the second area of the screen without a separate key signal." That is, the screen navigation instructions of Yoshida are not a help description with respect to one of plural parts of the figure indicated by the cursor on the second area of the screen without a separate key signal. Indeed, these screen navigation prompts provide no information that is specific to the features shown in sub-item 52 of Yoshida. Accordingly, the screen navigation prompts of Yoshida are not help descriptions. To cure this deficiency, the Official Action applies Shalit.

Shalit describes an interactive user interface of a computer including a monitor for displaying objects of the computer on a screen. The interface includes: a plurality of panes including a first pane having a content region for displaying the objects; and means for dragging a selected object from a content region of the first pane to one of first and second control regions so as to link the selected object to a second pane to thereby enable automatic viewing of contents of the selected object on the second pane.

In FIG. 7 of Shalit, Pane 1 (93) shows all car models available at a given dealership, Pane 2 (94) shows options available for a car model selected in Pane 1, and Pane 3 (95) shows a description of the option selected in Pane 2.⁷ The options are "Alarm System", "Air Conditioning" and "Compact Disc Player" etc. However, like Yoshida, the panes of Shalit are

⁶ Yoshida, col. 5, lines 35-43, Figs. 6-7.

not related to Applicant's claimed help descriptions, and are not descriptions of any sort that relate to a displayed figure. Therefore, contrary to the Official Action, Shalit fails to disclose or suggest Applicant's currently claimed feature of "displaying on a third area of the screen a help description with respect to one part of the figure indicated by the cursor on the second area of the screen without a separate key signal when the cursor indicates any one part of the *figure*."

Furthermore, as acknowledged by the Official Action, Shalit fails to disclose or suggest Applicant's claimed feature of "displaying a figure of the external element indicated by the cursor on a second area of the screen." To cure this deficiency, the Official Action applies Rochford.

Rochford describes displaying a direct containment hierarchy having hierarchical containment groups of at least two containment levels; and concurrently displaying a list of contents only of the lowest level containment group, wherein each containment group is a file folder. In one embodiment of Rochford, the direct containment hierarchy is displayed in a first area and the list of contents is displayed in a second area. In the example of Rochford cited in the Official Action, the map of Canada is displayed. When the cursor overlaps a province of Canada, the province name is displayed.

However, the interactive map of Rochford does not include display a help description with respect to one part of the figure on a third area of the screen, as recited in Applicant's claim 1. Instead, the interactive map of Rochford displays a list of contents 22 of a file folder that is related to the part of the map indicated by the cursor. The displayed hierarchal data of Rochford is not help data or related to help information.

⁷ Shalit, col. 9, lines 8-13.

Second, Rochford does not disclose or suggest removing the help description of the third area from the screen when the cursor indicates another part of the figure, as recited in amended claim 1. In Rochford, the displayed hierarchal appears to remain on display after the cursor moves to another geographical region.

Applicant submits that Davis, Yoshida, Shalit and Rochford fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of independent claims 38-42 for substantially the same reasons identified above relative to independent claim 1.

Applicant has considered Nsonwu and submits Nsonwu does not cure the deficiencies of Davis, Yoshida, Shalit and Rochford. As none of the cited art, individually or in combination, discloses or suggests at least the above-noted features of independent claims 1 and 38-42, Applicant submits the inventions defined by claims 1 and 38-42, and all claims depending therefrom, are not rendered obvious by the asserted references for at least the reasons stated above.⁸

CONCLUSION

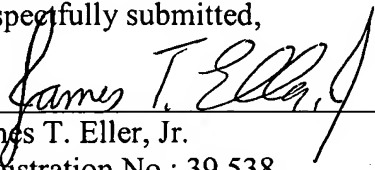
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Michael E. Monaco, Reg. No. 52,041, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.147; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By


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⁸ MPEP § 2142 "...the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.